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\$3.50

# the WEIRD WORLD of JACK STAFF™

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!



# the WEIRD WORLD of **JACK STAFF** BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO



WRITTEN & DRAWN BY  
**PAUL GRIST**  
☆ COLOURED BY ☆  
**BILL CRABTREE**



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A big thank you for this issue's cover goes to Ian Churchill. Thanks Ian! Look out for his new Marineman comic which is coming out from Image in the summer. Sure to make a big splash! Speaking of covers...

# FLAG WAVING

A few weeks ago I was in the Sheffield Space Centre, my local comic shop of choice, collecting a small pile of comics that had accumulated since my previous visit. I was in the mood to try something a little different so I took a look over the vast array of comics spread across the shelves, looking for something new and exciting to catch my eye.

When did comic covers get to be so dull?

All I saw was a sea of grey muted colours and not a single memorable or interesting image to be seen. And these were Marvel/DC superhero comics I was looking at. What happened? Used to be I went into a comic shop and comics were leaping out from the shelves (not literally - they had wire racks to hold them back) but there used to be a vitality, a dynamic, to the cover, something that would grab the eye of the casual reader, make you want to pick that comic up and take a look inside. When did we stop doing that?

Comics are a visual medium. A wall of comics should be an exciting place. Full of energy, striking images that demand attention. But all I see is indistinct images of characters which all seem to fold into one another. Certainly nothing that makes me think 'I want to read that!' The cover is the most important thing that a comic/magazine/book has to attract the casual reader, and we don't seem to think we need to do that anymore.

I left the shop with just the comics that were in my regular pile. We complain about there being no new comic readers, but we seem to have given up trying for the readers that we do have. Isn't it time we put a bit more effort in? Come on comics, I'm a reader. Put your best frock on. Flirt with me. Seduce me.

\*\*\*\*\*

Spring is on the way, and so is the Bristol International Comic & Small Press Expo, which will this year be spread across the Ramada and Mercure Hotels over the weekend of 22 - 23 May. Full details can be found at [www.fantasyevents.org/bristolcomicexpo](http://www.fantasyevents.org/bristolcomicexpo). I recommend you get your tickets early as space is limited and tickets will not be available on the door!

[paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk)

Follow me on twitter @mistergrist or join the Weird World of Jack Staff facebook group!

**DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS**  
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THREE  
WEEKS  
AGO...

# MARCH

				1 FRIDAY	2 SATURDAY	3 SUNDAY
4 MONDAY	5 TUESDAY	6 WEDNESDAY	7 THURSDAY	8 FRIDAY	9 SATURDAY	10 SUNDAY
11 MONDAY	12 TUESDAY	13 WEDNESDAY	14 THURSDAY	15 FRIDAY	16 SATURDAY	17 <i>Suppers</i> SUNDAY
18 MONDAY	19 TUESDAY	20 WEDNESDAY	21 THURSDAY	22 FRIDAY	23 SATURDAY	24 SUNDAY
25 MONDAY	26 TUESDAY	27 WEDNESDAY	28 THURSDAY	29 FRIDAY	30 SATURDAY	31 SUNDAY







TABLE  
FOR  
**ONE**  
SIR?



AN...  
**MISS  
JONES!?**  
BUT I  
UH...



ACTUALLY,  
I'M NOT QUITE  
AS HUNGRY  
AS I THOUGHT  
I WAS.

GOOD  
NIGHT  
SIR.



I'M  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE MEETING  
WITH A  
FRIEND OF  
MINE...



**EDDIE!**



MISTER  
SMITH?  
I'M A LITTLE  
LATE, IS  
HE HERE  
YET?



I'M  
AFRAID  
MISTER  
SMITH  
LEFT.

THERE  
WAS  
UH AN  
INCIDENT.



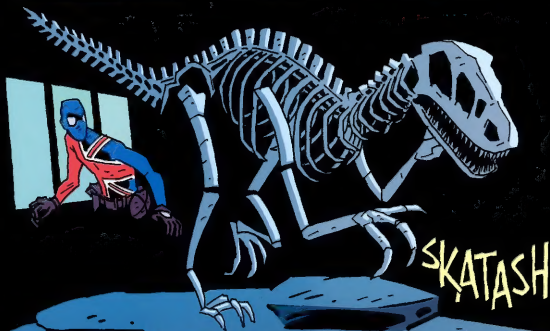
GREAT.



FATE  
OF THE  
WORLD  
IN THE  
BALANCE  
...



"AND HE GOES AND  
HAS AN 'INCIDENT'..."



CONTINUED.

The guy behind me is JOHN SMITH. He also seems to have forgotten that he's JACK STAFF, Britain's Greatest Hero. Which is a pity as we could really do with some kind of hero right now.

THEY CALLED ME THE SKULL ...

I BRING DESTRUCTION!  
I BRING CHAOS!

WHY?

Me? I'm

# BECKY BURDOCK

## VAMPIRE REPORTER

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MEDIA NOWADAYS. I'M A REPORTER. I CAN HELP YOU GET YOUR MESSAGE ACROSS. TELL PEOPLE WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS.

EH?

That means I get to ask the questions.

BECAUSE I'M THE BAD GUY- THAT'S WHY!

Which, as superpowers go, is pretty 2nd division - Relegation zone.





OKAY,  
BAD GUY.  
WE GET  
THAT.

BUT  
PEOPLE  
WANT TO  
KNOW WHY.  
WHAT DRIVES  
YOU? WHAT'S  
YOUR  
MOTIVATION?



--I--

HAVE  
NONE.



OKAY NO  
PROBLEM.  
LET'S  
TRY  
SOME  
THING  
ELSE..

IF YOU  
COULD ONLY  
ACHIEVE  
ONE THING  
**ANYTHING**,  
WHAT WOULD  
IT BE? WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT?



I  
WANT  
...

REVENGE

I WANT  
THOSE WHO  
TRIED TO  
**DESTROY**  
ME!

I WANT  
TO TEAR  
THEM APART!  
**CRUSH**  
THEM BENEATH  
MY HEEL!



THAT'S GOOD!  
WE'VE ALL  
HAD DAYS  
LIKE THAT.

YOU NEED  
TO FOCUS.  
WHO WAS IT  
WHO TRIED TO  
**DESTROY**  
YOU?

LET'S  
TELL  
WHO THE  
**REAL**  
BAD GUY  
IS.



**JACK  
STAFF**

AND IN **OTHER NEWS**,  
THE MYSTERIOUS  
CLOSURE OF THE  
**ALTERNATE ENERGY  
RESEARCH CENTRE**  
ENTERS ITS  
SECOND DAY.

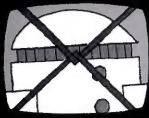
BBC tv



A FIVE MILE  
**EXCLUSION ZONE**  
HAS BEEN PLACED  
AROUND THE CENTRE  
AND RESIDENTS IN  
NEARBY CASTLETOWN  
HAVE BEEN  
EVACUATED.



OFFICIALS STRESS  
THIS IS JUST A  
PRECAUTION WHILST  
AN **INCIDENT** IS  
INVESTIGATED BUT  
REFUSE TO COMMENT  
ON THE POSSIBILITY OF  
TERRORIST INVOLVEMENT.



YOU THOUGHT  
YOU COULD USE  
YOUR POWER  
TO DRAIN ME  
OF **ENERGY?**

I AM  
**ENERGY!**

YOU WOULD  
DIE OF **OLD  
AGE** BEFORE  
YOU COULD  
WEAKEN  
ME!

**1973**

THE WORLD STANDS  
ON THE BRINK OF A  
GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS!

SCIENTISTS AT THE  
**ALTERNATE ENERGY  
RESEARCH CENTRE**  
ARE DEVELOPING A  
NEW SELF RENEWING  
SOURCE OF ENERGY.

THEY HOPE TO USHER  
IN A NEW **GOLDEN  
AGE** FOR BRITAIN.

HOW WRONG COULD  
THAT GO?



WITH THE GROWTH OF THE **SUPER CROOK**  
DURING THE 1960'S, A SPECIALIST UNIT WAS  
FORMED, DEDICATED TO CATCHING CRIMINALS  
BEYOND THE REACH OF THE REGULAR POLICE

# UNIT D



TERRY  
STRINGER.  
UNARMED  
COMBAT.



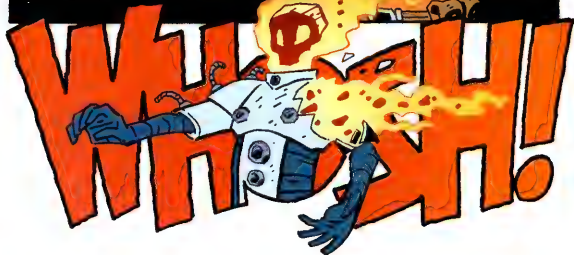
SNAP!

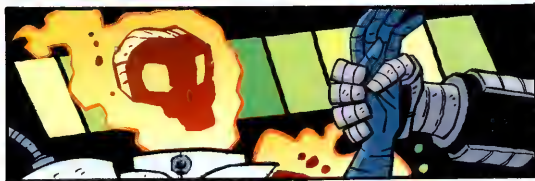


CLICK



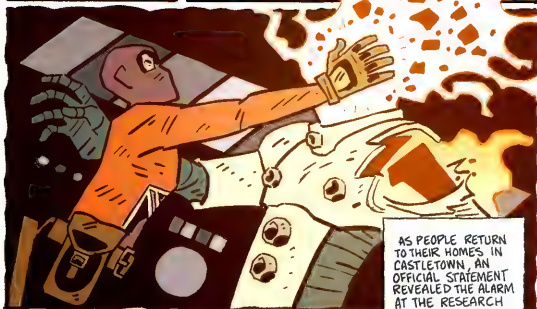
SANDRA LEE  
WEAPONS  
EXPERT.













JACK  
STAFF!

WHERE  
IS HE?

I  
WANT  
HIM!

So much  
for the  
DISTRACTION  
TECHNIQUE.

Let's go with  
the truth.  
Sort of.

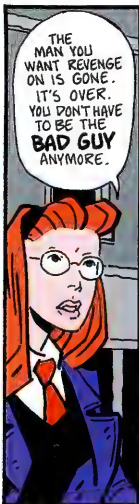
JACK  
STAFF?  
DIDN'T YOU  
HEAR? HE  
DISAPPEARED.  
TWENTY  
YEARS AGO.

GONE?

JUST  
VANISHED.  
PFFT.

LOOKS  
LIKE SOME  
ONE GOT TO  
HIM BEFORE  
YOU.

DID  
THEY  
HURT  
HIM?



Great. The police.

Now we're in TROUBLE.





**1875**  
THE EMPIRE THEATRE,  
CASTLETOWN.



**O**UTSIDE THE STORM IS RAGING. PROFESSOR FATE STANDS ON STAGE BEFORE AN ENTHRALLED CROWD. THEY HAVE COME TO BE ENTERTAINED, TO SEE A SPECTACLE. WHAT PROFESSOR FATE PLANS IS TO TAKE HOLD OF POWER BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING!



**W**HILST BELOW THE STAGE, THE ONE MAN WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HALT THE AMBITIONS OF PROFESSOR FATE CAN BE FOUND HANGING IN CHAINS!

**CHARLIE  
RAVEN**

THE **GREATEST**  
**ESCAPOLOGIST** OF  
THE **VICTORIAN AGE!**



**B**UT THERE ARE NO CHAINS THAT CAN BIND CHARLIE RAVEN. NO LOCK THAT HE CANNOT OPEN. THE MOST REMARKABLE MAN OF HIS AGE TWISTS HIS HANDS, CONTRACTING AND STRETCHING THEM WITH AN EASE THAT MAKES HIS BONES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FASHIONED OUT OF RUBBER! ONCE THEY ARE FREE HE EFFORTLESSLY PULLS HIS BACK INTO A POSITION WHICH WOULD SNAP THE SPINE OF A LESSER MAN.





WITH ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF BOTH MIND AND BODY, CHARLIE RAVEN USES THE THIN WIRE HE HAD HIDDEN BETWEEN HIS TEETH TO PICK THE LOCK OF THE CHAINS THAT HOLD HIM. MOVING IT FROM SIDE TO SIDE HE LISTENS FOR THE CLICKS OF THE LOCK AS THEY FALL INTO PLACE. THEN HE IS FREE. FREE TO PURSUE FATE. BUT NO.

THIS WAS TOO EASY. TOO EASY EVEN FOR CHARLIE RAVEN.







CASKET OF  
TRANSFORMATION?  
**HA!** I'VE NOT  
SEEN THIS  
ONE BEFORE!

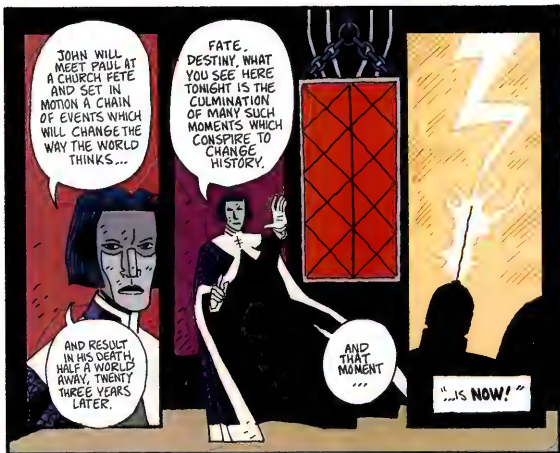
I'LL  
JUST CHECK  
MISTER  
RAVEN'S  
GETTIN' READY  
...

OUR  
HISTORY  
IS DEFINED  
BY SMALL  
MOMENTS OF  
COINCIDENCE.  
CHANCE  
MEETINGS  
AND EVENTS.

hmm -  
WONDER  
WHAT ALL  
THE WIRES  
ARE FOR?  
...

**P**ROFESSOR FATE MUST HAVE KNOWN THESE CHAINS WOULD NOT HOLD HIM. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING UNEXPECTED. SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE OVERLOOKED BY THE EYES OF A NORMAL MAN. BUT CHARLIE RAVEN IS NOT A NORMAL MAN. THERE IS A FINE WIRE STRUNG ACROSS THE ROOM. SET TO BREAK WHEN THE DOOR IS OPENED. CAREFULLY CHARLIE RAVEN FOLLOWS THE WIRE BACK TO ITS ORIGIN BEHIND THE SCREEN.





HARLIE RAVEN HAS SEEN THIS KIND OF MECHANISM BEFORE AND KNOWS ITS DESTRUCTIVE POWER - BUT IF HE IS TO LEAVE THE ROOM HE MUST DISMANTLE IT. HE IS SO ENGROSSSED IN HIS EXAMINATION OF THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE THAT CHARLIE RAVEN FAILS TO HEAR THE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OR NOTICE THE ENTRY OF ANOTHER INTO THE ROOM.

UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.





**B**

OOM!



CONTINUED.

I REPEAT  
**ARMED  
POLICE!**  
**DON'T  
MOVE!**



DETECTIVE  
INSPECTOR  
MAVERYK.

ANY SUDDEN  
MOVEMENT  
WILL BE  
ASSUMED  
**HOSTILE!**  
...



OKAY  
FRANK  
...

YOU  
GOT A  
CLEAR  
SHOT?



AND MET  
WITH AN  
**APPROPRIATE  
RESPONSE!**  
...



YES  
BUT I'D  
RATHER  
HE WAS A  
BIT FURTHER  
AWAY FROM  
THE  
CIVILIANS.



CIVILIANS?  
THAT GUY IN  
THE BLACK  
T-SHIRT IS  
**JACK  
STAFF.**









YOU  
COULDN'T  
STOP ME  
THEN  
...

THEY  
CAN'T  
STOP ME  
NOW!

NO...  
WAIT!  
I DON'T  
THINK  
YOU--



YES.

I  
THINK  
I DO.

CONTINUED.

THREE  
WEEKS  
AGO...



I'VE GOT  
TO STOP  
HIM...

NO.



WE  
NEED TO  
BE SOME  
WHERE  
ELSE.

NOW.



I ...  
KNOW  
YOU...



IT  
WAS A  
LONG TIME  
AGO.





THE BUTLER JUST SAVED ME ...

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM!

TRUST ME. HE'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT.

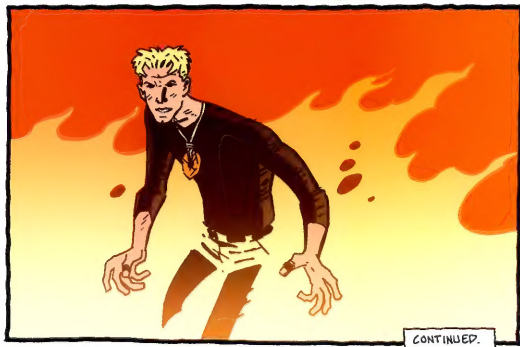
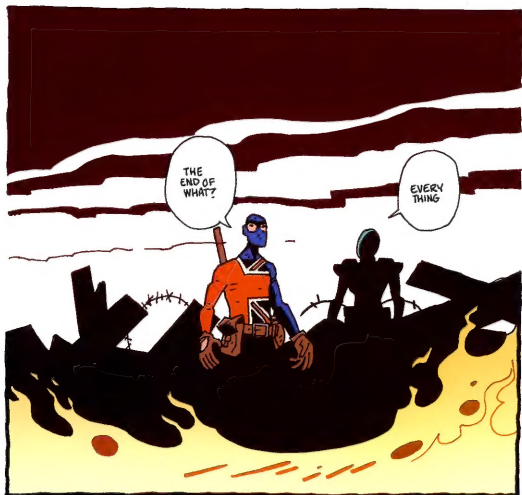
THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS FOR US TO DO NOW.

WAIT - WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

IT'S NOT WHERE. IT'S WHEN.

I'M TAKING YOU TO THE END.

THE END?



CONTINUED.

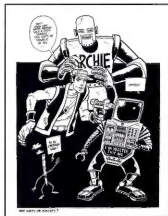
# STAFF POST

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Single pages of the original black and white art from Jack Staff are available at £75UK \$150US each. Covers are £150UK \$300US each. Prices include postage. Pages are also available from The Eternal Conflicts of the Cosmic Warrior, Torchwood and Doctor Who. Please list alternatives in case your first choice has already gone. Contact me by e-mail if you want to check availability or reserve a particular page. Cheques payable to Paul Grist.

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Contact me at paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk

## NEXT ISSUE

He's not a robot! He's not a man! It's Castletown's Cast Iron Champion, Tom Tom The Robot Man vs The Skull! And Professor Fate discovers that the future ain't what it used to be!



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Minutemen - Ty'd Emma



minutemen



Scans' n edits